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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/763,868	01/22/2004	Edward Eytchison	Sony-05300	8511
7590 JONATHAN O OWENS HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP 162 NORTH WOLFE ROAD SUNNYVALE, CA 94086			EXAMINER CLOUD, JOIYA M	
		ART UNIT 2144	PAPER NUMBER	
		MAIL DATE 10/18/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/763,868	EYCHISON ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Joiya M. Cloud	2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continuation of Attachment(s) '3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :01/31/2004,03/16/2007,06/07/2007,06/14/2007,07/11/2007,08/27/2007.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on January 22, 2004. Claims 1-26 represent Methods and apparatuses for streaming content.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Armstrong et al. (US Publication No 2002/0073172 A1, hereinafter Armstrong) in view of Janik et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0013852 A1, hereinafter Janik).

As per claim 1, Armstrong discloses the invention substantially as claimed. **Armstrong** teaches a method comprising: storing an initial portion of the content item in a temporary storage cache (**Abstract, paragraphs [0018], [0030], [0033]**); receiving a request for the content item (**Abstract, paragraphs [0018], [0030], [0033]**); streaming the initial portion of the content item from the temporary storage cache to a stream synchronizer in response to the request (**Abstract, paragraphs [0018], [0030], [0033]**); producing a resultant stream (**where the resultant stream is the remaining portion**) using the initial portion of the content item () ; and seamlessly transitioning the resultant stream from the initial portion of the content item to an entire segment of the content item (**paragraphs, [0033], [0046], and [0037]**).

Although the Background of Armstrong specifically states that a “user ideally selects desired content” in paragraph [0006], Armstrong does not explicitly identifying a preference and selecting a content item based on the preference;

However, Janik teaches identifying a preference (**paragraphs [0080] and [0082]**); selecting a content item based on the preference (**paragraphs [0080] and [0082]**);

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the networking art at the time the invention was made to have incorporate Armstrong's teachings to the teachings of Janik, for the purpose of providing a means to allow the user to receive specific requests based on their preference and furthermore for returning to a user a desired stream to “meet user expectations” (**Armstrong: paragraph [0006]**).

As per claim 2, Armstrong-Janik teaches a method wherein the preference is associated with a user (**Janik: paragraphs [0080] and [0082]**).

As per claim 3, Armstrong-Janik teaches a method wherein the preference includes a playlist (**Armstrong: paragraph [0044]**).

As per claim 4, Armstrong-Janik teaches a method wherein the resultant stream mirrors the entire segment of the content (**Armstrong: paragraph [0031]**).

As per claim 5 Armstrong-Janik teaches a method further comprising identifying a user associated with the preference (**Janik: paragraphs [0080] and [0082]**).

As per claim 6, Armstrong-Janik teaches a method wherein the content includes one of a document, an image, audio data, and video data (**Armstrong: paragraph [0018], lines 1-5 and Janik: paragraph [0009]**).

As per claim 7, Armstrong-Janik teaches a method further comprising transmitting the entire segment of the content to a stream buffer in response to the request (**Armstrong: paragraph [0040]**).

As per claim 8, Armstrong-Janik teaches a method wherein the transmitting the entire segment of the content occurs simultaneously with streaming the initial portion (**Armstrong: paragraphs [0031], [0032], and [0040]**).

As per claim 9, Armstrong-Janik teaches a method wherein the seamlessly transitioning occurs in real-time (**Armstrong: paragraph [0027], [0031], [0032]**).

As per claim 10, Armstrong-Janik teaches a method according to claim 1, further comprising presenting the resultant stream beginning with the initial portion and subsequently followed by a portion of the entire segment (**Armstrong: paragraph [0046], lines 7-12**).

As per claim 11, Armstrong-Janik teaches a system comprising means for identifying a preference (**Janik:**); means for selecting a content item based on the preference (**Janik:**); means for storing an initial portion of the content item in a temporary storage cache (**Armstrong: paragraphs [0018], [0030], [0033]**); means for receiving a request for the content item; means for streaming the initial portion of the content item from the temporary storage cache to a stream synchronizer in response to the request (**Armstrong: paragraphs [0018], [0030], [0033] [0037]**); means for producing a resultant stream using the initial portion of the

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content item; and means for seamlessly transitioning the resultant stream from the initial portion of the content item to an entire segment of the content item (**paragraph [0037]**).

As per claim 12, claim 12 is substantially the same as claim 1 and thus rejected using similar rationale. Furthermore, regarding simultaneously loading an entire segment of the selected content item to the stream synchronizer while streaming the initial portion (**paragraph [0031] and [0032]**)

As per claims 13-17, the rejection for claims 1, 6, and 9 applies fully.

As per claim 18, Armstrong-Janik teaches a method further comprising displaying the resultant stream (**Armstrong: paragraph [0023]**).

As per claim 19, claim 19 is substantially the same as claim 1, but in system form rather than method form. Therefore, the rejection for claim 1 applies equally as well to claim 19.

As per claim 20, Armstrong-Janik teaches a system comprising a media server configured for storing an entire segment of content (**Armstrong: paragraph [0042]**); a client device configured for storing an initial portion of the content wherein the client device is configured to display the content by streaming a resultant stream from the initial portion of the content while simultaneously receiving the entire segment of the content and seamlessly substituting the entire segment of the content for the initial portion (**Armstrong: paragraphs [0044],[0046]**).

As per claim 21, Armstrong-Janik teaches a system wherein the client device is configured to store the initial portion of the content prior to a request for the content (**Armstrong: paragraph [0073]**).

As per claim 22, Armstrong-Janik teaches a system wherein the client device is configured to receive the entire segment subsequent to a request for the content (**Armstrong: paragraph [0046]**).

As per claim 23, system according to claim 20, wherein the client device further comprises a preference data module configured for storing information relating to the content (**Janik:**).

As per claims 24-26, the rejection for claims 1 and 6-7 applies fully.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joiya Cloud whose telephone number is 571-270-1146. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from on 7:30am-5:00pm.

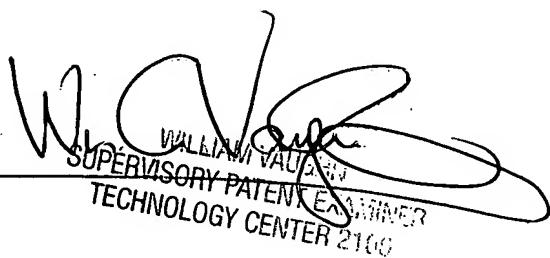
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-3922. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JMC

William C. Vaughn

Supervisory Patent Examiner

October 5, 2007



W.C. Vaughn
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